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Mr Frank David
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
Tower 4, TG.01
The Scottish Parliament
Holyrood

March 2008

Dear Mr David

PETITION PE1056

The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the NHS in all four UK countries about all aspects of screening policy and supports implementation. Using research evidence, pilot programmes and economic evaluation, it assesses the evidence for programmes against a set of internationally recognised criteria.

The evidence for adding additional conditions to the newborn screening programmes is reviewed by the UK NSC condition by condition; as new research evidence becomes available. I have asked the UK NSC to consider reviewing the evidence for newborn screening for the Factor V Leiden mutation. This will take place in 2008/09.

Meanwhile for the Committee's information, the American College of Medical Genetics Consensus Statement on Factor V Leiden Mutation Testing says that "neither prenatal nor routine newborn screening is recommended." This statement was produced in 2001 and reaffirmed in 2006.

Yours sincerely

DR HARRY BURNS